

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a cladding ~~for being disposed about the core~~ of an optical fiber article, comprising the steps of:
  - providing an elongate glass article;
  - adhering a layer of soot to the elongate glass article ~~for forming a portion of the cladding so as to be disposed about the core when present~~;
  - ~~sintering the layer of soot to~~ forming a first sintered layer by sintering said layer of soot such that said first sintered layer includesing voids that are at least one of empty or compris[[ing]]e a gas;
  - adhering a different layer of soot to the elongate glass article ~~for forming a different portion of the cladding so to be disposed about the core when present~~;
  - ~~sintering the different layer of soot to~~ forming a different sintered layer by sintering the different layer of soot such that said different layer is substantially free from voids; and
  - ~~disposing a second cladding about the cladding, the second cladding comprising an index of refraction lower than an index of refraction comprised by the cladding.~~
  - refraining from sintering that would cause said voids to fail to remain in said first sintered layer, and
  - wherein said first and second layers form at least a part of the cladding of the optical fiber article.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 including drawing the elongate glass article into a glass fiber.
3. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a cladding ~~for being disposed about the core~~ of an optical fiber article, comprising the steps of:
  - providing a hollow elongate glass article;
  - adhering a layer of soot to a surface of the elongate glass article ~~for forming a portion of the cladding so as to be disposed about the core when present~~;

forming a sintered layer by sintering the layer of soot to form a such that the sintered layer includes voids that are at least one of empty or compris[ing]e a gas, said sintered layer forming a portion of the cladding;

providing a second elongate glass article for providing one of at least a portion of ~~the~~ a core and a different portion of the cladding where the different portion is substantially free of voids; ~~and~~

refraining from sintering that would cause said voids to fail to remain in said first sintered layer, and

oversleeving one of the glass articles with the other of the glass articles.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 including drawing the oversleeved glass articles into a glass fiber.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a cladding ~~for surrounding the core~~ of an optical fiber article, comprising the steps of:

providing an elongate glass article;

adhering a layer of soot to the elongate glass article ~~for forming a portion of the cladding so as to be disposed about the core when present;~~

forming a first sintered layer by sintering said layer of soot, said first sintered layer forming a portion of the cladding to form a first sintered layer of the cladding;

subsequent to forming the first sintered layer, adhering a different layer of soot to the elongate glass article ~~for forming a different portion of said cladding so as to be disposed about the core when present;~~

exposing ~~only~~ the different layer of soot to a selected material in the form of a gas or liquid for absorption by the different layer of soot; and

forming a different portion of the cladding by sintering the different layer of soot to form a second sintered layer of said cladding.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 including drawing the elongate optical fiber into a glass fiber.

7. (Withdrawn) A method of forming a cladding for being disposed about the core of an optical article, comprising the steps of:
- providing an elongate glass article;
  - adhering a layer of soot to the elongate glass article for forming a portion of the cladding so as to be disposed about the core when present;
  - distributing particles having an index of refraction different than the index of refraction of the soot with the layer of soot; and
  - sintering the soot layer.
8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 7 including drawing the elongate glass article to form a glass fiber.
9. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a cladding ~~for being disposed about the core~~ of an optical fiber article, comprising the steps of:
- providing a hollow elongate glass article;
  - adhering a layer of soot to the inside of the elongate glass article ~~for forming a portion of the cladding so as to be disposed about the core when present;~~
  - exposing the layer of soot to a selected material in one of a gas and liquid form for absorption by the soot;
  - forming a portion of the cladding by sintering the soot;
  - providing a second glass article for providing one of at least a portion of ~~[[the]]~~a core and a different portion of the cladding; and
  - oversleeving one of the glass articles with the other of the glass articles.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9 including drawing the glass articles into a glass fiber.
11. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a cladding ~~for being disposed about the core~~ of an optical fiber article, ~~the cladding having an index of refraction that is less than the index of refraction of the core,~~ comprising the steps of:
- providing an elongate glass article;

adding glass to the article for forming a first part of the cladding ~~so as to be disposed about the core when present~~, the added glass including discrete regions having a different index of refraction than the added glass; and

adding glass without discrete regions to the elongate glass article for forming another part of the same cladding ~~so as to be disposed about the core when present~~.

12. (New) The method of claim 1 comprising disposing a second cladding about the cladding, the second cladding comprising an index of refraction lower than an index of refraction comprised by the cladding.